

## Message Text

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12

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 ( ISO ) W

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P 251700Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1775

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 9149

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN FROM AMBASSADOR VOLPE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, IT

SUBJECT: ASSESSMENT OF ITALIAN POLITICAL SITUATION

REF: 9148

1. I CALL YOUR ATTENTION TO ROME'S 9148. IT CONTAINS OUR LATEST ASSESSMENT OF THE LOCAL SITUATION IN THE WAKE OF THE RESULTS OF THE JUNE 15 ELECTION. THE DUST HAS NOT SETTLED HERE AND IT IS, THEREFORE, TOO EARLY FOR THE EMBASSY TO MAKE ANY RECOMMENDATIONS OR TO COMPILE A COMPLETE ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS OPEN TO US IN CONFRONTING THE PROBLEMS PRESENTED BY THE SHARP LEFTWARD SWING IN THE JUNE 15 ELECTION. HOWEVER, IN LIGHT OF YOUR REVIEW OF ITALY ON JUNE 27, I WANTED YOU TO HAVE THE BENEFIT OF OUR LATEST THINKING AND TO ALSO SHARE WITH YOU THE FOLLOWING PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS.

2. AS SIGNIFICANT AS THE ELECTION RESULTS WERE, I WOULD NOT DEFINE THE SITUATION AS HOPELESS. NOTWITHSTANDING THE WASHINGTON POST'S EDITORIAL, ITALY IS NOT FACED WITH ONLY TWO UNPLEASANT OPTIONS: THE HISTORIC COMPROMISE ON THE ONE HAND, AND INEFFECTIVE MINORITY RIGHTIST GOVERNMENT ON THE OTHER. IT IS SIMPLY TOO EARLY TO RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF THE RECONSTITUTION OF SOME KIND OF A COALITION OF THE CENTER LEFT PARTIES, ALBEIT  
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THE LIKELIHOOD OF ITS BEING MORE LEFT THAN PREVIOUS ONES.

3. DURING THIS SENSITIVE PERIOD HERE WHEN THE THREE PRINCIPAL PARTIES-DC, PSI AND PCI-ARE SORTING OUT THEIR OPTIONS, I HAVE BEEN DELIBERATELY KEEPING A LOW PROFILE AND NOT SEEKING OUT HIGH LEVEL CONTACTS IN ANY PARTY, AS I FEEL THE SITUATION IS TOO FLUID HERE TO RISK BEING IDENTIFIED WITH ANY PARTICULAR INDIVIDUALS OR PARTIES. MY MESSAGE TO THOSE POLITICAL FIGURES THAT I HAPPEN TO SEE IS ONE OF ENCOURAGING THEM TO CONTINUE TO PURSUE AVAILABLE DEMOCRATIC SOLUTIONS. IT IS IMPORTANT AT THIS TIME THAT THE TRADITIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTIES NOT FEEL THAT WE ARE WAIVERING IN OUR OPPOSITION TO THE PCI ENTERING THE GOVERNMENT, YET AT THE SAME TIME MAKE THEM AWARE WE HAVE CONFIDENCE THAT THROUGH HARD WORK AND HARD DECISIONS AN EFFECTIVE DEMOCRATIC COALITION CAN BE PUT TOGETHER AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO CONTINUED PCI GAINS.

4. I LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR REVIEW AND THE POLICY GUIDANCE THAT WILL COME OUT OF IT. VOLPE

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## Message Attributes

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